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BRIDGEPORT, CONN.
TELEGRAM

M - 13,172
MAR 28 1967

Bruno Defends Support Of Student Units by CIA

CPYRGHT

Col. A. James Bruno, president of "Security by Bruno", speaking before the East End Lion's club last night, defended, vigorously the right of the CIA to support student and publishing organizations.

Speaking on "Security Is My Business" in the Fairway restaurant, 2536 East Main Street, Col. Bruno said he held a personal acquaintance with many associated with the CIA and found these men to be loyal, dedicated and patriotic citizens.

The matter of CIA support of students came up in the question-and-answer period which followed Col. Bruno's talk.

Asked his opinion of the present criticism being heaped upon the CIA, Col. Bruno said:

"The CIA is being criticized for the support given to three student groups, mainly the National Student Organization and a few publishers. I ask you very directly. Have we reached the point in this country where it is unethical or immoral to be patriotic, to wave the flag abroad?

The World University Service recently expressed "outrage" at the CIA and at other "individuals," foundations and organizations" that it said had "established a network of conspiracy

within seemingly free institutions."

Question Is Asked

"What I would like to know," Col. Bruno continued, is: "Do they resent the fact that CIA funds made it possible for American youth leaders to mingle with youth of other nations . . . and to tell them the 'facts of life' about these United States . . . about our standard of living, the highest in the world . . . about the advantages available in this country to every young man and woman who deserves them . . . Do they resent the clearing up by these student youth leaders, the distortions and half truths about the United States that our so-called, 'friends' abroad revel in broadcasting about us?

"Let's put it right on the line — How can any American, who really loves this country, give aid and comfort to our cold war opponents, and these opponents are not confined to the iron and bamboo curtain countries, by publicly accusing our college students of being spies? Of course this country is engaged in intelligence activities. What country on the face of this earth isn't?

"It's an old football adage that the best defense is a powerful offense. Intelligence and counter intelligence are international facts of life — some of our congressmen and senators and ivy-cloistered, unrealistic, academic fist-pounders notwithstanding.

"But, my friends," Col. Bruno concluded, "intelligence is a profession, a painstaking, highly technical profession. It cannot be learned by reading books, watching television, or by following the hectic exploits of James Bond on the motion picture screen. We don't let medical students practice medicine. We don't let law students practice law. And I cannot believe, in the light of serious judgment, that the men who run this nation's intelligence activities are so naive that they are going to permit adolescent, untrained students practice intelligence for the United States."

Col. Bruno served in World War II with Army Intelligence and is a member of Governor Dempsey's military staff. He operates security offices out of Hamden and Westport.